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14 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT:

Executive Agreements

J. Fred Buzhardt, General Counsel, Department of Defense, called to say he had talked to Mr. Rufus L. Edmisten, Chief Counsel and Staff Director of Senator Ervin's Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, about the Senator's bill, S. 3475, on executive agreements. He has reached an agreement with Mr. Edmisten now that he will send him nothing at this time. Apparently, Mr. Edmisten backed down when Mr. Buzhardt said he would send him a truckload of 5,000 unclassified agreements if he wanted them. Mr. Buzhardt said he expounded his theory of defining executive agreements by the degree of recognition they had, including those important enough to come to the attention of the President. He said Mr. Edmisten was taken by this idea and told Mr. Buzhardt that he expected to develop this theme in questioning witnesses, so he asked Mr. Buzhardt not to put it forth in writing at this time. Mr. Buzhardt expects to testify before the Subcommittee on 26 April, starting at 12 noon. If Mr. Buzhardt's theory works out, we probably would have no serious problems.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON General Counsel

cc: Executive Director

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